

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A merge information providing apparatus having merge
user information providing means, said merge user information
5 providing means comprising plural user information providing
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate
user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said
information regarding said user from said user information
10 providing means and providing said acquired information
regarding said user with merging.

2. The merge information providing apparatus of as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said merge information providing
15 apparatus comprises:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said
information regarding said user from said user information
providing means; and

user information merging means for merging said
20 information regarding said user acquired in said user
information acquisition means.

3. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 2, wherein said user information acquisition means
25 acquires said information regarding said user from said user
information providing means by using first use permission
information permitting the use of said user information
providing means.

4. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

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5. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means.

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6. The merge information providing apparatus of the claim 5, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

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7. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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8. A merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and further providing an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means,

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said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said

information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

5 9. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

 user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

10 user information merging means for merging said information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

 10. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
15 in claim 9, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

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 11. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

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 12. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing

means.

13. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 12, wherein said use permission information creation
5 means creates said second use permission information including
said first use permission information by using said first use
permission information.

14. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
10 in claim 8, further comprising setting means for setting up
said subordinate user information providing means according to
a request.

15. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
15 in claim 8, further comprising authentication information
acquisition means for acquiring first authentication
information certifying authentication of said user in said
user information providing means, from said user information
providing means.

20 16. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 15, further comprising second authentication
information creation means for creating second authentication
information containing therein said first authentication
25 information and certifying authentication of said user in said
merge user information providing means by using said first
authentication information.

17. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising user distinction information acquisition means for acquiring user distinction information that distinguishes said user from said user information
5 providing means.

18. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said user distinction information acquisition means acquires said user distinction information
10 from said user information providing means by using first authentication information included in said second authentication information.

19. An information providing apparatus having user
15 information providing means for providing information regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing information regarding a designated user in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said
20 merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, to said merge user information providing means.

25 20. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said user information providing means further comprises user information saving means for saving said information regarding said user.

21. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belong, and wherein said group information includes user
5 information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

22. The information providing apparatus having user information providing means providing information regarding a
10 user and further an authentication service regarding said user, said user information providing means providing information regarding a designated user in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user
15 information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, to said merge user information providing means.

20 23. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said user information providing means further comprises user information saving means for saving said information regarding said user.

25 24. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, and wherein said group information includes user information and/or group information of other user information

providing means.

25. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user
5 information providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information providing
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate
user information providing means, and

setup request transmission means for transmitting a
10 request regarding a set up of said subordinate user
information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said
information regarding said user from said user information
providing means and providing said acquired information
15 regarding said user with merging.

26. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,
further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said
20 information regarding said user from said user information
providing means; and

user information merging means merging said information
regarding said user acquired in said user information
acquisition means.

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27. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 26,
wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said
information regarding said user from said user information
providing means by using first use permission information

permitting the use of said user information providing means.

28. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 27, further comprising use permission information
5 acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission
information from said user information providing means.

29. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,
further comprising use permission information creation means
10 for creating second use permission information that permits
the use of said merge user information providing means.

30. The managing apparatus of the claim 29, wherein said
use permission information creation means creates said second
15 use permission information including said first use permission
information by using said first use permission information.

31. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 25,
further comprising setting means for setting up said
20 subordinate user information providing means according to a
request.

32. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user
25 information providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information providing
means providing information regarding a user and further
providing an authentication service regarding said user as
subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting a request regarding setting up of said subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring said
5 information regarding said user from said user information providing means and providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

33. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,
10 further comprising:

user information acquisition means for acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means for merging said
15 information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

34. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 33,
wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said
20 information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using first use permission information permitting the use of said user information providing means.

35. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 34,
25 further comprising use permission information acquisition means for acquiring said first use permission information from said user information providing means.

36. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,

further comprising use permission information creation means for creating second use permission information that permits the use of said merge user information providing means.

5 37. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said use permission information creation means creates said second use permission information including said first use permission information by using said first use permission information.

10 38. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising setting means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

15 39. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32, further comprising authentication information acquisition means for acquiring first authentication information certifying authentication of said user in said user
20 information providing means, from said user information providing means.

 40. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 39, further comprising second authentication information creation
25 means for creating second authentication information containing therein said first authentication information and certifying authentication of said user in said merge user information providing means by using said first authentication information.

41. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 32,
further comprising user distinction information acquisition
means for acquiring user distinction information that
distinguishes said user from said user information providing
5 means.

42. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 41,
wherein said user distinction information acquisition means
acquires said user distinction information from said user
10 information providing means by using first authentication
information included in said second authentication information.

43. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 42,
further comprising setting screen display means for displaying
15 a screen for setting said merge user information providing
means and said subordinate user information providing means.

44. A merge information providing method in merge user
information providing means, said merge user information
20 providing means comprising plural user information providing
means providing information regarding a user as subordinate
user information providing means, said method comprising the
steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user from user
25 information providing means; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user
with merging.

45. A merge information providing method in merge user

information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

46. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

47. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising

said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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48. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing

10 means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

15 transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

49. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

25 acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

50. A computer-implemented method for providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said
5 method comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding said user from user information providing means; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user
10 with merging.

51. A computer-implemented method of providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user
15 information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said
20 user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

52. A computer-implemented method of information in user
25 information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing

means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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53. A computer-implemented method of providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

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a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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54. A computer-implemented method of managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

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acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

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providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of

said subordinate user information providing means.

55. A computer-implemented method of managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

10 acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

 transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

56. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing merge information in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

 acquiring information regarding said user from user information providing means; and

25 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

57. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing merge information in merge user information

providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means and further an authentication service

5 regarding said user, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

providing said information regarding said user with merging.

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58. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, said method comprising:

15 a user information offer providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a
20 designated user to said merge user information providing means.

59. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information
25 regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising:

a user information providing step for providing, in response to a request from a merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising

said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a designated user to said merge user information providing means.

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60. A processor-readable medium storing program code for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request requesting for a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

61. A processor readable medium for storing program code for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring said information regarding said user from said user information providing means;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a set up request regarding a set up of said subordinate user information providing means.

62. A merge information providing apparatus having merge
5 user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing user information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user
10 information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by the user whether or not the use of said information providing means is permitted, said
15 merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

63. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 62, comprising:

20 distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means;
user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user
25 information providing means; and
user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

64. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 62, wherein said distinction information managing
means provides said distinction information of said same user
to said user information acquisition means in response to a
5 request from said user information acquisition means.

65. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 62, wherein said user information acquisition means
acquires said user information regarding said user from said
10 user information providing means by using permission
information that permits the use of said distinction
information and said user information providing means.

66. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
15 in claim 62, further comprising set up means for setting up
said subordinate user information providing means according to
a request.

67. A merge information providing apparatus having merge
20 user information providing means, said merge user information
providing means comprising plural user information providing
means providing user information regarding a user and an
authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user
information providing means,
25 said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user
information regarding a user registered to the user
information providing means of which use is permitted and/or
authentication is made therein and the same user registered to
other user information providing means, without distinguishing

the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

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68. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 67, comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user is
10 registered to said user information providing means;
user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

user information merging means merging said user
15 information regarding said user acquired in said user information acquisition means.

69. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 68, wherein said distinction information managing
20 means provides said distinction information of said same user to said user information acquisition means according to a request from said user information acquisition means.

70. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed
25 in claim 68, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said user information providing means.

71. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 67, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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72. A merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing user
10 information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user
15 information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made,
20 said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

73. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprises authentication information
25 acquisition means for acquiring first authentication information that certifies said user in said main user information providing means from said main user information providing means.

74. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 73, further comprising second authentication information creation means for creating second authentication information that certifies said user in said merge user information providing means and including said first authentication information, by using said first authentication information acquired in said authentication information acquisition means.

75. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 74, further comprising second authentication information providing means for providing said second authentication information to a client requesting said authentication.

76. The merge information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 72, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

77. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user,

said user information providing means providing information regarding said user corresponding to said distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said information providing means and/or other user information providing means to merge user information providing means in response to a request from said merge user

information providing means, said merge user information providing means including said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means.

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78. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, further comprising user information providing means for saving said information regarding the said user.

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79. The information providing apparatus as claimed in claim 77, wherein said information regarding said user is user information and/or group information of a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

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80. An information providing apparatus having user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user,

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said user information providing means comprising user information providing means for providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate user information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information that distinguishes said user registered to said user information providing means and/or

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other user information providing means, to said merge user information providing means.

81. The information providing apparatus as claimed in
5 claim 78, wherein said user information providing means further comprising user information saving means for saving said information regarding to said user.

82. The information providing apparatus as claimed in
10 claim 80, wherein said information regarding said user comprises user information and/or group information about a group to which said user belongs, said group information including user information and/or group information of other user information providing means.

15 83. A managing apparatus, comprising:

merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing
20 means providing user information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding set up of said subordinate user information providing means,

25 said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by the user information

providing means of which use is permitted, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

5 84. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing distinction information that distinguishes said user is registered to said user information providing means;

10 user information acquisition means for acquiring said user information regarding said user from said user information providing means; and

 user information merging means merging said user information regarding said user acquired in said user
15 information acquisition means.

 85. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said distinction information managing means provides said distinction information of said same user to said user
20 information acquisition means in response to a request from said user information acquisition means.

 86. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said
25 user information regarding said user from said user information providing means by using permission information that permits the use of said distinction information and said user information providing means.

87. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, further comprising set up means for setting up said subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

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88. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 83, further comprising setup screen display means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge user information providing means and said subordinate user information providing means.

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89. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and

setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding to set up of subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

90. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 89,
comprising:

distinction information managing means for managing
distinction information that distinguishes said user is
5 registered to said user information providing means;

user information acquisition means for acquiring said
user information regarding said user from said user
information providing means; and

10 user information merging means merging said user
information regarding said user acquired in said user
information acquisition means.

91. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 90,
wherein said distinction information managing means provides
15 said distinction information of said same user to said user
information acquisition means according to a request from said
user information acquisition means.

92. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 90,
20 wherein said user information acquisition means acquires said
user information regarding said user from said user
information providing means by using permission information
that permits the use of said distinction information and said
user information providing means.

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93. The managing apparatus providing apparatus as claimed
in claim 89, further comprising set up means for setting up
said subordinate user information providing means according to
a request.

94. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 89, further comprising setup screen display means for displaying a screen for setting up said merge user information providing means and said subordinate user information providing means.

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95. A managing apparatus, comprising:

a merge information providing apparatus having merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing user information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means; and

15 setup request transmission means for transmitting information regarding set up of said subordinate user information providing means,

said merge information providing apparatus acquiring user information regarding a user registered to the user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or the authentication is made therein and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing the user by whether or not the use of the user information providing means is permitted and/or the authentication is made, said merge information providing apparatus providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

96. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprises authentication information acquisition means

for acquiring first authentication information that certifies said user in said main user information providing means from said main user information providing means.

5 97. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second authentication information creation means for creating second authentication information that certifies said user in said merge user information providing means and including said first authentication information, by
10 using said first authentication information acquired in said authentication information acquisition means.

98. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 96, further comprising second authentication information providing
15 means for providing said second authentication information to a client requesting said authentication.

99. The managing apparatus as claimed in claim 95, further comprising set up means for setting up said
20 subordinate user information providing means according to a request.

100. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information
25 providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and

the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and providing said acquired information regarding said user
5 with merging.

101. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing
10 means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted
15 and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and providing said acquired information regarding said user
20 with merging.

102. A merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing
25 means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said

user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said
5 user information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

103. An information providing method in user information
10 providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information
15 providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user
20 information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

104. An information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means
25 providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information

providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

105. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

106. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without
5 distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said
10 subordinate information providing means.

107. A managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user
15 information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said
20 user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

25 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

108. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information
5 regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing
10 means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

15 109. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said
20 user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user
25 registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and
providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

110. A computer-implemented merge user information providing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

111. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

112. A computer-implemented information providing method in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method
5 comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as
10 subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

15

113. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate
20 user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the
25 use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

114. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

115. A computer-implemented managing method in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said

user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user
with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said

5 subordinate information providing means.

116. A processor-readable medium storing a program code
for providing merge user information in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information providing means
10 comprising plural user information providing means providing
information regarding a user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said
user information providing means of which use is permitted and
15 the same user registered to other user information providing
means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the
use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user
with merging.

20

117. A processor-readable medium storing program code for
providing merge user information in merge user information
providing means, said merge user information providing means
comprising plural user information providing means providing
25 information regarding a user and an authentication service
regarding said user as subordinate user information providing
means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said
user information providing means of which use is permitted

and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted; and

5 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

118. A processor-readable medium for providing merge user information in merge user information providing means, said
10 merge user information providing means comprising main user information providing means and sub user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

15 acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said
20 user information providing means is permitted; and

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging.

119. A processor-readable medium for providing
25 information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user, comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information

providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user to said merge user information providing means.

120. A processor-readable medium storing program code for providing information in user information providing means, said user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user, said method comprising the step of:

providing, in response to a request from merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising said user information providing means and other user information providing means as subordinate information providing means, information regarding a user corresponding to distinction information registered to said user information providing means and/or other user information providing means for distinguishing said user, to said merge user information providing means.

121. A processor-readable medium for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user as subordinate user information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said

user information providing means of which use is permitted and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

5 providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said subordinate information providing means.

10 122. A processor-readable medium for managing in merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising plural user information providing means providing information regarding a user and an authentication service regarding said user as subordinate user
15 information providing means, comprising the steps of:

acquiring information regarding a user registered to said user information providing means of which use is permitted and/or authentication has been made and the same user registered to other user information providing means, without
20 distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said user information providing means is permitted;

providing said acquired information regarding said user with merging; and

transmitting a request regarding setup of said
25 subordinate information providing means.

123. A processor-readable medium for managing method merge user information providing means, said merge user information providing means comprising main user information

providing means and sub user information providing means
providing information regarding a user and an authentication
service regarding said user as subordinate user information
providing means, comprising the steps of:

5 acquiring information regarding a user registered to said
user information providing means of which use is permitted
and/or authentication has been made and the same user
registered to other user information providing means, without
distinguishing said user by whether or not the use of said
10 user information providing means is permitted;

 providing said acquired information regarding said user
with merging; and

 transmitting a request regarding setup of said
subordinate information providing means.